

Project Annual Report

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Project: Happy Rural Children

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Project Donor: Flat-Out Australia

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Background

In order to improve the situation of rural children, especially preschool and primary school children in terms of health, sanitation and general education, as well as to improve the health and nutrition of women, CEDAC has implemented the project "Happy Rural Children" since 2007, with support from Flat-Out Australia in Tramkok District, Takeo province.

In 2008, the project worked in 15 villages of 10 communes in Tramkok District, Takeo province. The project worked with children and parents with a focus on improving access of children to pre-school education as well as improving basic sanitation and health of children and their parents.

Summary of project activities in 2008

Activities	Frequency	Participants		Topic
		Total	Women	
Village general meeting	10	274	204	Introduction of the project and the selection of interested villagers/farmers
Campaign in the villages	32	3126	1499	Benefits of vegetable nutrition, sanitation and drinking the boiled water.
Organized meeting with parents	20	247	231	Explaining Home Gardening, sanitation, importance of boiling drinking water, benefits of sending children to school regularly, importance of establishing the parent association
Organized meeting with village representatives	2	25	7	Explaining the role of Parent Committee to oversee the project in the village. How to organize a meeting. How to grow vegetables, the importance of boiling drinking water and having and using a toilet
Organized meeting to select parents' committee to implement the project	10	179	167	Selection of the parents' committee.
Communication with local authorities	5			Project introduction is implemented and facilitates collaboration
Opening the new <i>Teddy Bear</i> children's center	1	25		Enrolment of new students
Individual meetings with parents	39	72		Education around the importance of boiling drinking water and growing and eating vegetables.



The project outcomes and impact

- 109 children benefited from the project through their participation in children's meeting in the village and attending classes at the village-based children center
- 20 new students enrolled at the children center in 2008
- 275 families joined the village forum and workshop on children's education, nutrition and sanitation
- 188 families boiled drinking water
- 178 families are growing vegetables for improving family and children's nutrition
- 96 families built and use toilets, both modern and simple toilet

School teachers reported that the children who participated in the project, especially the children who graduated from the Children Center in 2007 are brave in answering questions posed by the teacher at primary school.

The children washed their hands by themselves when coming back from school and before eating meal. The parent takes care of the health and the cleanliness of their children's clothes. Parents boil drinking water for their children regularly. They now grow more vegetables for consumption.

Conclusion

The project was implemented successfully as there are more people participating than expected. There has also been a positive impact in terms of changing the knowledge and attitudes of parents towards their children's education and basic sanitation and nutrition. There are now more villagers interested to join the project.

However, the project was not able to support the construction as planned as the villagers were not able to mobilize sufficient contributions. They hope to raise more funds after the harvest time in early 2009.